expenditure incurred and number of villages covered under Gokul Gram Yojana during the last two years *i.e.* 2000-01 and 2001-2002 is given below :

Years	Approved Outlay (Rs. crore)	Expenditure (Rs. crore)	No. of villages covered
2000-2001	141.00	77.15	3676
2001-2002	63.59	52.64 (Anticipated)	7334

(d) Planning Commission has agreed to allocate Rs. 30.00 crores as an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for the Gokul Gram Yojana for Annual Plan 2002-03.

Special group for creation of employment opportunities

†278. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any special group to create employment opportunities in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said special group has made any recommendations regarding creation of employment opportunities in the country; and

(d) if so, what effective steps are being taken by Government to implement those recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Special Group on Targeting 10 Million Employment Opportunities per year over the Tenth Plan Period was constituted by Planning Commission under the Chairmanship

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission. The Special Group submitted its report in May 2002.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister announced at the Economic Advisory Council 13th July, 2002 meeting that an action plan to implement salient recommendations of the Report of Special Group will be prepared.

Contribution of women labour in national development

279. SHRIAIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated contribution of women labour in national development—social, educational, agricultural and other areas of development;

(b) whether it is a fact that due recognition is not given to women labour in policy making, planning, allocation of resources, provision of support, services and information; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to give due recognition to women labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRTMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Out of the total labour force and employed persons in the country in 1999-2000, women constituted 25.84% and 25.73% respectively.

(b) and (c) Equal opportunities are available to women through Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. Maternity benefits to female workers are available through Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. Many other enactments include special provisions to safeguard interests of women workers.